

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 16-44 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 1-15 are canceled and claims 16-44 are added. No new matter is added.

Unless otherwise indicated in the Remarks set forth below, the amendments to the claims are made for the purpose of correcting informalities and/or to more clearly define the claimed invention, and are not made for the purpose of overcoming the cited art.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative, René A. Vázquez, during the January 10, 2005 personal interview. The substance of the personal interview is incorporated in the Remarks set forth below.

The Office Action rejects claims 4, 7-8 and 14 because of various informalities. Claims 4, 7-8 and 14 are canceled and thus, this objection is now moot.

The Office Action objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a). Specifically, the Office Action alleged that the feature in claim 15 concerning a waveguide having plural cores for propagating the light must be shown or the feature canceled from the claim. Claim 15 has been canceled, and thus this objection is now moot. However, Applicant notes that new claims 28 and 43 recite multiple light guiding cores. Applicant refers the Examiner to Figs. 5 and 6, and the associated discussions in the specification, which provide support for this feature.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,646,636 to Popovich et al., in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US

2002/0126332 to Popovich and U.S. Patent No. 6,567,141 to Kaneko et al.. Claims 1-15 have been canceled, and thus their rejection is now moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

As discussed during the personal interview, Applicant respectfully submits that added claims 16-44 are allowable over the cited art. As discussed during the personal interview, none of the cited art, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest at least the feature of a liquid crystal holographic optical element comprising at least one hologram that is selectively adjustable, based on a voltage applied across a liquid crystal holographic optical element, between a first state, in which substantially all of the input light is reflected back to the optical waveguide via total internal reflection, and at least one other state, which causes at least some of the input light to be transmitted through the liquid crystal holographic optical element, as recited in claims 16 and 30. Claims 17-29 and 31-44 are thus also allowable as depending from independent claims 16 and 30, respectively, as well as for the additional features they recite.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the

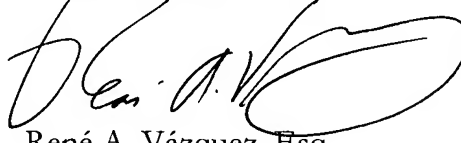
Serial No. 10/662,316
Reply to Office Action of September 14, 2004

Docket No. K-0541

application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, René A. Vázquez, Esq., at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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